THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 2nd July 1957.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

House-rent allowance to teachers in aided institutions.

*9 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state, with reference to Legislative Council Starred Question No. 336 answered on 9th August 1955, the stage at which the question of the grant of House-rent Allowance to teachers in aided institutions now stands?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The question of the grant of House-rent Allowance to teachers in aided Secondary Institutions is under the consideration of the Government. But there is no proposal under consideration to grant this allowance to the teachers in aided elementary schools.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Sir, may I submit to the Government that an assurance was given that this matter would be considered along with the revision of scales and that the matter has been pending for over two years now?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Yes, Sir. I hope an early decision will be reached.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: May I know the reason why aided elementary school teachers should be denied this allowance, when teachers in elementary schools under Local Boards are getting it?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, elementary schools are mostly located in villages where it may not be necessary to give this allowance.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Sir, in respect of grant of house-rent allowance, it has been laid down specifically in the rules that it shall be given with reference to the population of particular areas. Will it not be possible to declare all teachers who reside in such areas as eligible for this allowance, irrespective of the fact whether they are in secondary schools or elementary schools?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: These concessions are being granted by the Government even without being asked. So, the hon. Member may trust that the Government will try to improve the status and the emoluments of the teachers, as far as possible.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, with reference to house-rent allowance alone, especially in big cities, the teachers have to pay about 25 per cent of their salary as house rent and even then they get only small portions not worth the name of a house. May I, therefore, beseech the Government to see that this matter is considered soon and that their status is improved by payment of house-rent allowance?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We have taken into account the total emoluments that the teachers are getting and increases have been given either in the form of house-rent allowance or dearness allowance or increase in pay; substantial increases have already been given and, therefore, I do not think that it would be possible to reconsider the matter and give any other immediate relief.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I submit, since Government have denied only a particular category of teachers, that teachers with same qualifications, and living next door, who have been denied justice, might be put on a par with their co-brothers?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, there are so many injustices in the community and all of them cannot be removed at a stretch.

Educational fee concessions to the children of Non-Gazetted Officers.

* 10 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether and, if so, the grounds on which the educational fee concession to the children of Non-Gazetted Officers in Forms I to III is refused or withheld?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The children of Non-Gazetted Officers may retain the educational concession for a second year also in the same class or form in any one of the classes or forms up to Form III in Secondary Schools. The concession will be withdrawn if the pupils fail to secure a pass even at the end of the second year, i.e., the benefit of enjoying the educational concession for a second year in the same class or form can be availed of only once during the whole course from I class to III Form.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware of the fact that in certain schools a test is held prior to admission to I Form and that a failure in the test is considered a failure for the purposes of this rule?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir. That has been brought to the notice of the Government and if I remember aright, we have passed orders that this need not be considered as failure.